



# International Program Newsletter

## Diversity Immigrant Visa Program 2016

Each year, the U.S. Department of State sponsors a "lottery" to award 50,000 *permanent residence* visas to persons meeting the eligibility requirements. Diversity visas provide an immigration opportunity for persons from countries that do not send large numbers of immigrants to the US. Applicants will be electronically selected at random. The online registration period is October 1 – November 2, 2015. Visit the U.S. Department of State website at: <http://www.dv-lottery.us/> for more information. Several of SRJC's international students have won the lottery in past years.



## Alex Ling Memorial Scholarship

The Alex Ling Memorial Scholarship is available to international students who have already completed a semester at SRJC. The application deadline is October 09, 2015. The scholarship is \$475. Students must be currently enrolled with at least 12 units and have a minimum 2.5 GPA. Students must also enroll in at least 12 units at SRJC during Spring 2016. Financial need is considered when awarding this scholarship. More information can be found at the following web address: <https://portal.santarosa.edu/SRWeb/ScholarshipAwards.aspx>. Remember, to be awarded a scholarship, **you must apply!**



## FLAG CHALLENGE

Identify the flags! Look for the answer at the end of the newsletter!



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## Korean Thanksgiving!



The Korea-U.S. Cultural Exchange Foundation provided a lunch for SRJC students on September 29. Consulate General of the Republic of Korea, Han Dong-man, attended the event and also met with Dr. Chong, SRJC President.



## Swedish Students Arriving - Spring 2016

A group of 19 students from Sweden will be visiting SRJC from March 30 to May 16. These students are in their final year of an Entrepreneurship Program at Sven Eriksonsgymnasiet in Borås, Sweden. This program trains them to become successful business professionals who can work with people with diverse perspectives, cultures, and languages. Their program concludes with a visit to the United States to observe differences in American business and society. While at Santa Rosa Junior College, the students take classes in Marketing, Video Editing, English, Political Science, and Physical Education.

We are looking for host families to provide a room, transportation to the Santa Rosa campus, and meals for the 5 weeks they are here. Please visit <http://se.santarosa.edu/> to read more about this program and fill out an application if you're interested. It's a wonderful opportunity to share your culture, family and neighborhood with a student from another country, and to learn about theirs.

Contact Lisa Beach at [lbeach@santarosa.edu](mailto:lbeach@santarosa.edu) if you have question.



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### October 2015 Calendar

- Oct 09 *Ling Scholarship Deadline*
- Oct 12 *Midterm progress available in student portal*
- Oct 12 *Second 8-week classes begin*
- Oct 31 *Happy Halloween!*

## Recruitment Deadlines

If you know someone from another country who might like to study at SRJC, let them know we are now accepting applications for spring semester.

### Spring 2016 Deadlines

- Nov 3 Application Deadline for Out-of-Country
- Nov 17 Deadline for transfer applicants

### Summer 2016 Deadlines

- Feb 2 Application filing period begins
- May 4 Application Deadline

### Fall 2016 Deadlines

- Feb 2 Application filing period begins
- June 17 Application deadline for Out-of-Country
- July 9 Deadline for Transfer applicants

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## Optional Practical Training- Work Permission

Optional Practical Training (O.P.T.) is a benefit of the F-1 Student Visa status that allows for one year of full time employment to gain practical experience in your field of study. You must wait until you have earned an Associates degree before applying for this benefit. The employment must be directly related to your major. You can begin looking for a job a few weeks before you expect to receive your Employment Authorization card. Processing time for Practical Training applications is about 3 months, so you should submit your request 3 months before you wish to begin working. US CIS advises students not to leave the country while a request for work permission is being processed. Travel is possible once you have received your receipt notice or EAD card. You are not required to enroll in classes while on OPT.

The forms are available online at:

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>

Click on "Forms", then click on "I-765- Application for Employment Authorization."

Submit your completed forms, photos and documentation to Ms. Kim Hunt in International Student Programs. We will review your application and mail it to USCIS by certified mail.

## Festivals and Events

### Cotati Oktoberfest

Saturday, October 10

12-6 p.m. La Plaza Park,  
Old Redwood Hwy & W. Sierra Ave., Cotati.

A celebration of German culture, including specialty foods, live music and contests. Admission is \$15 for an authentic meal includes drink. Look for the big white tent!



<http://www.sonomauncorked.com/wine-country-events/annual-events/cotati-oktoberfest-2012/>

### Annual Viking Fest

Saturday, October 10

Norway Hall, 617 West Ninth Street, Santa Rosa

A celebration of Norwegian heritage, including Nordic arts and crafts, traditional foods, cultural displays and Viking reenactments.

<http://www.sonomauncorked.com/wine-country-events/annual-events/viking-fest/>

### Italian Heritage Fair & Parade

Sunday, October 11

Washington Square Park, San Francisco

This festival has been celebrated for over 140 years! The parade route begins at Fisherman's Wharf and makes its way to North Beach.



This popular event includes colorful parade floats, live entertainment, arts and crafts and specialty foods.

[www.sfcolumbusday.org/parade](http://www.sfcolumbusday.org/parade)

### El Dios de Los Muertos

Monday, October 26

SRJC Museum



The "Day of the Dead" is a holiday that celebrates the lives of family and loved ones who have passed. An "El Dia de los Muertos" celebration will be held at the SRJC Museum Monday October 26. An Aztec Xantotl Danza will open the celebration.

For more information about the exhibit that will take place from Oct. 26, 2015 to Nov. 6, 2015 visit: <http://www.santarosa.edu/museum>

## Corn Maze in Petaluma is Open!

The Petaluma Pumpkin Patch and Amazing Corn Maze is now open! The maze is open though the month of October and you can find more information about the maze and the pumpkin patch on their web page. <http://petalumapumpkinpatch.com/> Look for them on Facebook, too!



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## Information Sessions for International Student

The International Student Program Office has scheduled Information Sessions to help international students learn more about services SRJC provides.

The following sessions have been scheduled for 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Emeritus Hall, Room 1596.

Wed., Oct. 14 – Health Services – Free services and referrals available

Tues., Nov. 17 – CPT/OPT – Qualifying to work off campus

Tues., Dec. 1 – Scholarships – Applying for scholarships



### SRJC International Club

Become a member on Facebook. Keep up with student activities, events, and information.



### Virtual Campus Tour



Check out the new virtual tour of the Santa Rosa Campus, Petaluma Campus, and Shone Farm on the [International Student Program](#) website. You can download an app of the tour to your mobile device from iTunes or the Android PlayStore by searching for "Santa Rosa Junior College."

### Farewell to Blanca



ISP's Administrative Assistant II (AA2), Blanca Flores, is transferring to the Hispanic Serving Institute (HSI). Thank you for all of your hard work Blanca. ISP Program and A&R will miss you!



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### Thank You Bear Cubs!



International students were honored guests of the SRJC Athletic Department and were recognized at the Sept. 19 game. (SRJC 30 - Sac State 29)



### Flag Challenge Answers

- 1. Sweden
- 2. Ghana
- 3. South Korea
- 4. Nicaragua
- 5. Argentina

The newsletter is published monthly Sept.-Dec., Feb.-May  
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**SRJC International Student Program**  
Can be found on Facebook.  
Please **LIKE us!**